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Agenda item 160 (a)

Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Felipe **García Landa** (Mexico)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 15 September 2017, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-second session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Disengagement Observer Force" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 38th and 48th meetings, on 14 May and 5 July 2018. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records.[1]

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 (A/72/633 and A/72/633/Corr.1);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 (A/72/719);

(c) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/72/789/Add.2).

[1] A/C.5/72/SR.38 and A/C.5/72/SR.48.

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.39

4. At its 48th meeting, on 5 July, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force" (A/C.5/72/L.39), submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Ghana.

5. At the same meeting, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic orally proposed an amendment to the draft resolution to insert a new operative paragraph reading as follows:

> "*Takes note* of paragraph 27 of the report of the Advisory Committee and decides to abolish two international temporary positions in the Office of the Force Commander, Head of Mission for one Special Adviser (P-5) and one Mission Liaison Officer (P-4), and further decides not to approve the five general temporary assistance positions to be converted to international posts to strengthen the Security Section;"

6. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran made statements in support of the proposed amendment.

7. Also at the 48th meeting, the representative of the United States of America requested a recorded vote on the proposed amendment and, before the vote, also made a statement in explanation of vote.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee rejected the proposed amendment by a recorded vote of 54 to 13, with 55 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, China, Congo, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Liberia, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mali, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

9. Also at the same meeting, after the vote, the representatives of Austria (on behalf of the European Union) and the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement in explanation of vote.

10. Also at the 48th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.39 without a vote (see para. 12).

11. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement in explanation of position.

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

12. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force [1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolution 350 (1974) of 31 May 1974 regarding the establishment of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was resolution 2394 (2017) of 21 December 2017, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force until 30 June 2018,

Recalling also its resolution 3211 B (XXIX) of 29 November 1974 on the financing of the United Nations Emergency Force and of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 71/306 of 30 June 2017,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in its resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of its resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/276 of 29 June 2007, 64/269 of 24 June 2010, 65/289 of 30 June 2011, 66/264 of 21 June 2012, 69/307 of 25 June 2015 and 70/286 of 17 June 2016, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force as at 30 April 2018, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 20,770,702 United States dollars, representing some 1 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 70 Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full;

4. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

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[1] A/72/633, A/72/633/Corr.1 and A/72/719.

[2] A/72/789/Add.2.

5. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

6. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

8. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266, 61/276, 64/269, 65/289, 66/264, 69/307 and 70/286;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all action necessary to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017

11. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017;[3]

12. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force the amount of 8,166,300 dollars for the maintenance of the Force, previously authorized by the Advisory Committee for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 under the terms of section VI of General Assembly resolution 64/269, in addition to the amount of 47,714,100 dollars previously approved for the same period under the terms of its resolution 70/279 of 17 June 2016;

Financing of the additional appropriation for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017

13. *Decides*, taking into account the amount of 50,289,400 dollars previously apportioned under the terms of its resolution 70/279 for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, to apportion among Member States the additional amount of 8,166,300 dollars for the maintenance of the Force for the same period, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 70/246 of 23 December 2015, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2016 and 2017, as set out in Assembly resolution 70/245 of 23 December 2015;

14. *Also decides* that there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 13 above, the amount of 508,100 dollars, representing other revenue in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2017;

15. *Further decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 14 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 57,200 dollars, representing the additional staff assessment income for the Force in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2017;

[3] A/72/633 and A/72/633/Corr.1.

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019

16. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force the amount of 64,190,100 dollars for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019, inclusive of 60,295,100 dollars for the maintenance of the Force, 3,112,100 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 782,900 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;

Financing of the appropriation for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019

17. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 32,095,050 dollars for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2018, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 70/246, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2018, as set out in its resolution 70/245, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force;

18. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 17 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 835,900 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 676,600 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 125,750 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 33,550 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

19. *Further decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 32,095,050 dollars for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2019, at a monthly rate of 5,349,175 dollars, in accordance with the scale of assessments for 2019 and the updated levels,[4] subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force;

20. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 19 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 835,900 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 676,600 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 125,750 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 33,550 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

21. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

22. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Force under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502 (2003) of 26 August 2003;

23. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East", the sub-item entitled "United Nations Disengagement Observer Force".

[4] To be adopted by the General Assembly.